

SENATE BILL 213

By Ketron

AN ACT to designate a segment of State Route 50 in
Maury County as the "Trooper Calvin Wayne
Jenks Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Calvin Wayne Jenks of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of the General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on January 6, 2007 ; and

WHEREAS, a two-year veteran of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Trooper Jenks truly enjoyed being a law enforcement officer, and he evidenced uncommon dedication to his duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of his profession; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Jenks performed his appointed duties in an admirable manner that distinguished him as a credit to both his community and his profession; Tennessee was undoubtedly made a better and safer place to live during his service; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of January 6, 2007, when Trooper Jenks was mortally wounded in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee are now feeling the deep pain produced by this terrible and wasteful loss of one of our best and brightest law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Jenks was highly respected in the Culleoka community where he grew up, not only as a law enforcement professional who served and protected his fellow citizens, but also as a friend and a neighbor; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lansing, Michigan, Calvin Jenks moved to Culleoka in Maury County in 1989; he graduated from Culleoka High School in the Class of 2000, and was a four-year starter on the school's baseball team; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Jenks graduated from the Highway Patrol's cadet school in April of 2004, whereupon he began his duties in the Seventh District of the THP in Lawrenceburg, earning the respect and admiration of his fellow troopers and a grateful public for his dedication and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2006, Trooper Jenks transferred to the Fourth District in Memphis to be closer to his fiancée, Sarah Elizabeth Hayes, a medical student; the couple married in September of 2006, and made their home on Mud Island in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Jenks's loyalty and commitment to justice fueled his determination to become an officer of the law, and he regarded his work as a trooper to be of the utmost significance, and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to and inspired by his loving family, Trooper Jenks always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Calvin Jenks was a devout member of the Culleoka Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Wayne Jenks leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Maury County Legislative Body has requested that a segment of State Route 50, which passes through the Culleoka community so beloved by Trooper Jenks, be named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly concurs with this excellent proposal to permanently commemorate the bountiful life of this exceptional police officer and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the segment of State Route 50 in Maury County from the eastern corporate limits of the City of Columbia southeastward to the Maury County - Marshall County boundary is hereby designated as the "Trooper Calvin Wayne Jenks Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an exemplary public servant who made the ultimate sacrifice of his life while protecting and serving his fellow citizens.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating the segment of State Route 50 described in Section 1 as the "Trooper Calvin Wayne Jenks Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.